



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C. SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1935

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

VOL. 25, NO. 2

DISPUTES BILL BEING PREPARED

Proposed Measure Would Continue Labor Board, Outlaw "Company" Unions and Provide Definitely For Majority Rule in Industry.

Such A Bill Is One Of Five Major Points On A. F. of L. Program.

Washington—It is reported that the Wagner "Labor Disputes Bill," introduced at the last session of Congress, but not passed, due to the well-remembered "legislative jam," is being re-drafted in the light of eighteen months' NLRB experience and further study of the country's needs in this respect.

U. S. Senator Robert F. Wagner, first chairman of the National Labor Board, is quoted as expecting to introduce the bill as soon as final details can be worked out thoroughly. The bill probably will be introduced within a few days.

It is understood that the present tentative draft of the bill would continue the National Labor Board, with its present powers and duties; would prohibit employer assistance in forming labor organizations (excluding the "company union" rule); provide definitely for "majority rule" in industry.

A "labor disputes bill" is mentioned as one of the five major points of the 1935 legislative program of the American Federation of Labor.

United Mine Workers May Seek A Utility Status For Industry

President Lewis States Proposed Bill Ready, Embracing Recommendations Of Resources Board.

Washington—The National Resources Board on the left coal situation, in which it recommended that the Federal Government buy coal land for reserves and determine maximum prices for consumer protection, brought forth an announcement by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, commending the report and revealing that his organization expects to ask a public utility status for the coal mining industry.

"Anticipating this report and eager to cooperate with the Administration in its forward policies," Mr. Lewis stated, "the United Mine Workers of America has completed the preparation of a bill for possible Congressional enactment, embracing the principles and details of the National Resources Board's recommendations."

According to President Lewis, several hundred coal operators (mine owners) have given the union assurance that they will support the proposed measure.

"This draft will be presented to the administration within the next few days, and will constitute a basis for the reasonable regulation of the coal industry and the safeguarding of the public interest."

"The bill contains a Congressional declaration which gives the coal industry a utility status; sets up a commission to administer the rules and standards fixed by the Congress; provides for the fixation of minimum and maximum prices; provides for the allocation of production through temporary quotas; provides for collective bargaining and reasonable standards of wages and hours and also for just and adequate returns to investors."

PIECE-WORK RATES FOR CIGAR MAKERS EXTENDED

By A. F. of L. News Service.
New York, Pa.—The National Industrial Recovery Board, it is stated here, has extended until February 15 the order permitting bunch makers and rollers employed in making two-dollar-five cent cigars by hand to be paid minimum piece rates instead of the minimum hourly rate established in the code for the cigar manufacturing industry. Several thousands of workers are affected.

The original order was approved December 2 and would have expired January 15. The extension states that while "measures have been introduced toward the improvement of conditions necessitating the stay," no definite solution of the problem seemed to exist, "as has been effected."

The old minimum wage rate for the operations is 27 cents an hour. The minimum piece rates are \$1.15 per thousand cigars for bunch makers and \$3 per thousand for rollers.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR, 1935

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Collective Bargaining and Social Security Discussed at University by President Green

Unemployment Still Remains Nation's Most Acute Problem Demanding Solution

"Public Opinion in the United States Has Become Crystallized in Support of Practical, Constructive, Social Security Legislation."

"It is the Judgment of Labor That The Corporation Which Creates the Company Union Merely Bargains With Itself," Labor Official Declares in Address Delivered At Northwestern.

Chicago—In a stirring address, delivered at Northwestern University, of Evanston, near Chicago, Tuesday evening, January 15, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, discussed at length and in understandable language the important subjects of collective bargaining and social security.

"The principles and processes of self-government are applied in a democracy in such a flexible manner as to meet the needs of a changing social and economic system," President Green stated in opening his address.

"This fact is demonstrated in the development of human relations in industry. Since the abolition of slavery, the freedom of the individual worker to accept or reject employment at will and to accept or reject wage standards has been established by the American people and recognized and conceded in self-governing nations."

"This is self-determination, freedom of choice, the very essence of democracy. Because of the growth and expansion of industry within our own country, the principle of individualism, liberty has acquired a new meaning. Now the individual worker is no longer the master of his own destiny, but is the master of his own choice and bargain. He is no longer a slave, but a free man, a representative of his own choosing, by his own choice and bargain."

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few individual employers have recommended the termination of the National Recovery Act.

"But, notwithstanding the benefits and advantages which the National Recovery Act conferred upon employers and employees' organizations many of the sections of the National Labor Relations Board in industrial disputes, third, in discharging and disciplining, and fourth, in the collective bargaining sections of the National Labor Relations Act."

"This opposition is reflected, first, in the organization and maintenance of company unions, second, in the refusal of certain corporations to abide by the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board, third, in the refusal of certain corporations to abide by the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board, and fourth, in the refusal of certain corporations to abide by the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board."

"Disputes regarding collective bargaining and the selection by the workers of a union of their own choice were referred, in many instances, to the National Labor Relations Board for consideration and decision."

"In the refusal of certain corporations to abide by the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board, the National Labor Relations Board has been forced to take action to enforce its decisions. This action has been taken in the form of injunctions and orders, and in some cases, in the form of contempt proceedings."

"Management sought and secured day orders in the courts and the prevention of the holding of Government supervised elections for collective bargaining purposes."

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have violated both the spirit and letter of Section 7-A of the National Labor Relations Act. This provision:

"That employees shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the determination of such representatives or in the self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection; that no employer shall discriminate against any employee for his participation in such activities."

"This section prohibits employers from discriminating against and from discharging workers who exercise their right to belong to a union, but notwithstanding this legal prohibition employers discriminate against and discharge workers because they join unions."

"Thousands of workers who placed a liberal interpretation upon Section 7-A, have been accused of having violated it, and many of them have been discharged because they joined labor unions."

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to prevent the shipment of interstate commerce of certain articles or commodities, in connection with which persons are employed more than six days per week or six hours per day, and exercising certain conditions with respect to purchases and loans by the companies or their agents, or their agents, in the determination of such representatives or in the self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection; that no employer shall discriminate against any employee for his participation in such activities."

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30-HOUR BILL IS INTRODUCED

Would Prohibit Shipment in Interstate Commerce Articles Made With Longer Hours Than 6 Daily Or 30 Per Week. Result Would Put Millions Back To Work And Increase Purchasing Power of Nation.

By A. F. of L. News Service.
Washington, D. C.—The 30-hour work week bill, which has the approval of the American Federation of Labor, subject to the possibility of minor amendments which might be offered in committee, was introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives by Senator Black, and in the House of Representatives by Representative Clegg.

Following the course of all proposed bills, which will be referred to a committee on the Judiciary for consideration and public hearing where desirable, the bill has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, which is expected to hold hearings in the near future.

Enactment of the 30-hour work week bill is one of the five principal subjects on the legislative program of the American Federation of Labor, which holds that the bill would be to put millions of unemployed people back to work and increase the purchasing power of the nation, reducing to the benefit of the consumer the cost of production.

Due to the wide interest in this bill, together with the belief of representatives of the labor movement, it should be acquainted with its provisions, but it has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, which is expected to hold hearings in the near future.

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WIDE INTEREST IN COUNCIL MEETINGS

A. F. of L. Executive Council Meets in Washington, January 20.

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor Executive Council met in session at the Washington Hotel, January 20, for the purpose of discussing the 30-hour work week bill and other matters of importance to the labor movement.

The council, which is composed of representatives of the various national labor unions, held its meetings in private, but the public was allowed to attend the sessions, which were held in the afternoon.

The council's first order of business was the consideration of the 30-hour work week bill, which was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Clegg, and in the Senate by Senator Black.

The council also discussed the proposed amendments to the National Labor Relations Act, and the proposed amendments to the National Labor Board's rules and regulations.